

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1212

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of George Floyd of
Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly appalled and grievously saddened at the repugnant and senseless killing of George Floyd of St. Louis Park, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd's horrific death was captured on video as a Minneapolis police officer held him down with his knee upon his neck for almost nine minutes while Mr. Floyd pleaded that he couldn't breathe and was in pain before his eyes shut and his pleas stopped. He was pronounced dead shortly after; and

WHEREAS, that Minnesota police officer has been charged with second-degree murder and his three fellow officers, who stood by and did nothing, have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter. All four have been fired; and

WHEREAS, born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, George Floyd grew up in the Cuney Homes housing project of the Third Ward neighborhood of Houston, Texas, one of the city's predominately black neighborhoods, and was known by his family and relatives as "Perry"; and

WHEREAS, he attended Frederick Douglass Elementary School as a child, where at the age of eight for a class assignment, he wrote that he wanted to become a Supreme Court Justice when he grew up. He graduated from Jack Yates High School, where he was a star football and basketball player; and

WHEREAS, a six-foot six-inch tight end, George Floyd played in the 1992 Texas state championship high school football game for Jack Yates in the Houston Astrodome, having

thrilled his classmates with touchdowns during his career and earning the nickname "the gentle giant"; and

WHEREAS, a basketball standout, Mr. Floyd played collegiately for South Florida State College in Avon Park, Florida, from 1993 until 1995, and is recalled there as being a good athlete and coachable kid with a big heart, who never tried to blame others for his own mistakes as he always sought to do better; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, George Floyd was also a skilled musician, who worked with the hip-hop group, Screwed Up Click, led by legendary Houston musician, DJ Screw; and

WHEREAS, a man of abiding faith, George Floyd became involved in the local ministry, Resurrection Houston, and was intent on making changes in himself and his neighborhood. He told his family he was moving to Minnesota after being encouraged by friends through a Christian work program; and

WHEREAS, seeking a new start in a new city, Mr. Floyd moved to Minneapolis, embarking on a journey to create better opportunities for himself as a person and as a father; and

WHEREAS, upon arriving in Minneapolis, George Floyd landed two jobs, one working as a security officer with the Salvation Army store in downtown Minneapolis and the other as a truck driver; and

WHEREAS, known to friends as "Big Floyd," he also worked security at Conga Latin Bistro for five years, where he was beloved by his co-workers and patrons, helping clean up after the bar closed. He was known in the community as a protector and provider who didn't have a hateful bone in his body; and

WHEREAS, George Floyd was laid off when the restaurants in Minnesota were shut down due to COVID-19 as part of the stay-at-home order; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son and brother, Mr. Floyd was the father of an adult son and two daughters, one adult and one just six years of age, and the grandfather of one granddaughter, age three; and

WHEREAS, his partner, Courtney Ross, said, "He was not only the man I loved, but the man I admired. He taught me how to be a better person."; and

WHEREAS, his baby girl, six-year-old Gianna Floyd, proclaimed with a daughter's pride through her grief and pain, "Daddy changed the world!"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the life of George Floyd; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of George Floyd, reflecting upon his beautiful spirit, his devotion to his family and friends, his compassionate humanity, and his personal courage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our condolences to Mr. Floyd's family and friends and to all who grieve his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.